

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

Decision Record

Environmental Assessment
DOI-BLM-UT-W010-2016-0001-EA

November 2015

Pseudomonas fluorescens Strain D7 Biopesticide Field Study

Location: Vernon, UT. R5W, T8S, Section 20. Treatment would be done within the Vernon Fire JU5Z ESR drill seeding project.

Applicant/Address: Alan Bass, Utah State Office Weed Program Lead. 440 West 200 South SLC, UT 84101 U.S. Department of the Interior.

Bureau of Land Management
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***Pseudomonas fluorescens* Strain D7 Biopesticide Field Study**

Based on my review of the *Pseudomonas fluorescens* Strain D7 Biopesticide Field Study environmental assessment (DOI-BLM-UT-W010-2016-0001-EA) and consideration of field office staff recommendations, I have selected the proposed action alternative. The use of this is in conformance with the Pony Express Resource Management Plan (RMP, January 1990).

Specifically, it is my decision to establish a field study involving the incorporation of the biopesticide *Pseudomonas fluorescens* strain D7 into an integrated approach for the management of downy brome/cheatgrass involving the use of revegetation activities. As per the Washington Office Information Bulletin 2015-082, the study area will not exceed 50 acres. For this action it is anticipated that between 20-30 acres would be treated using the D7 strain. This action will be implemented as part of the approved Vernon (JU5Z) Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan (approved on 7/20/2015).

Plan Conformance and Consistency: The proposed action is in conformance with the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Pony Express RMP, as amended, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is consistent with the following RMP decisions and objectives:

- Wildlife and Fisheries Program Decision 4 (Page 37, Protect Habitat/Stipulations) and Decision 5 (Page 37, Improve Crucial Wildlife Habitats). BLM will protect and improve wildlife habitats including where conditions show a decline of desirable plant communities important for the greater sage grouse.
- Soil, Water, and Air Program Decision 1 (Page 30, Evaluate). All actions that involve soil, water and air resources will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

Rationale for Decision: This project was posted to the NEPA Register on October 22, 2015. Concerns or comments from the public were not brought to the SLFO's attention. The treatment area occurs outside of priority or general habitat for the greater sage-grouse.

Trained personnel will only be used to work with the biopesticide as described in the product label. The project will not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects nor involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Appeal Language: The decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Public notification of this decision will be considered to have occurred on the date signed below. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the authorized officer at the Bureau of Land Management, Salt Lake Field Office, 2370 South Decker Lake Boulevard, West Valley City, UT 84119.

If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the authorized officer. Instructions for filing an appeal are contained on the attached Form 1842-1.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

/s/Bruce Sillitoe
Salt Lake Field Office Manager

11/18/2015
Date

Attachment: Appeal Form 1842-1